Extinction of animals from protected forest of Delhi

†1388. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of animals have become extinct from the protected forest of Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of the animals alongwith their species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) As per the report received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Delhi there have not been any recent extinction of animals in the protected forest of Delhi. The important animals found in the forests of Delhi include: Jackal (Canis aureus), Nilgai (Boselaphus tragocamelus), Small Indian Civet (Vivvericula indica), Porcupine (Hystrix indica), Rhesus macaque (Macaca mulatta), Small Indian Mongoose (Herpestes auropunctatus), Rufous-tailed Hare (Lepus nilgricollis), Jungle Cat (Felis chaus), Ruddy Mongoose (Herpestes smithi), Spiny-tailed Lizard (Uromastix hardwickii), etc.

Employment in forest activities

1389. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sustainable forest development can create more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, how many persons directly and indirectly have been getting employment in forest activities;

(c) the details of the forest area reduced during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken to check tree cutting and forest fire in order to increase forest cover in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 1,73,000 villages located in the fringe of the forests. People living in and around the forests are directly or indirectly involved in enjoyment of the benefits from the forests including income generation activities. The statistics of employment is not collected by the Ministry.

(c) The Forest Survey of India does the assessment of forest cover on a two year cycle basis. Overall, there has not been any reduction in forest cover in last three assessments which is evident from following figures:

Year	Forest Cover of India (in Sq. Km.)
1997	633,397
1999	637,293
2001	675,538

(d) Through Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme, various institutional structures such as Village Forest Protection/Management Committees have been constituted involving people living in and around the forests for protection and development of forests. At present 27 States through 72,700 JFM Committees involving 46 lakh families are involved in protection of 16.60 million hectare of forestland. The Ministry is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for control and management of forest fires. In addition, assistance is being provided to North Eastern Region & Sikkim for development and strengthening of infrastructure for forest protection.

Research and investigation in FPIs

†1390. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of research and investigation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.